a first nucleotide sequence that encodes a wild type human cystic fibrosis transmembrane conductance regulator ("CFTR") protein; and

K1 a second nucleotide sequence within said first sequence, whereby said second sequence disrupts expression of CFTR fragments toxic to *E.coli*, said second sequence being located downstream from nucleotide position 907 of said CFTR-encoding sequence.

K2 218 (amended). A DNA molecule according to claim 217 [consisting essentially of] comprising the plasmid pSC-CFTR2.

Please add the following new claims:

--224. A viable host *E.coli* cell that comprises a DNA molecule that encodes wild type human CFTR protein.

K3 225. A plasmid comprising a DNA molecule that encodes wild type human CFTR protein, wherein said plasmid is capable of stable propagation in *E.coli*.--

REMARKS

Claims 202-225 are pending.

The patent office is thanked for the helpful interview of July 31, 1996. The above amendments and new claims were discussed and approved during the interview. By this paper, these amendments and new claims are now formally presented.

The rejection of the claims under 35 USC §102(e)/103 over Collins (USP 5,240,846) was also discussed during the interview. Collins is directed to a gene therapy vector for cystic fibrosis and makes certain disclosures related to a cryptic bacterial